

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /069 W

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R 110330Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2646

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW OF SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. DURING A MAY 10 CALL BY EMBOFFS AND LEO J. MOSER, POLAD/CINCPAC, SAMAD GHAUS, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) IS ESSENTIALLY "CONFUSED" ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN BECAUSE EVENTS THEMSELVES ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE. IN A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIOUS SCENARIOS WHICH MIGHT COME TO PASS IN PAKISTAN, GHAUS SAID THAT IF BHUTTO SOMEHOW SURVIVES THIS CRISIS AND REMAINS IN POWER AT LEAST HE IS A KNOWN QUANTITY TO THE GOA, AND A MAN WHOSE "STENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES ARE WELL KNOWN TO US". HE ADDED THAT BHUTTO IS A VERY ABLE AND CLEVER POLITICIAN, BUT THAT "A TERRIBLE WOUND" IN PAKISTAN'S BODY POLITIC WOULD CONTINUE TO HAUND BHUTTO SHOULD THE PM REMAIN IN OFFICE.

2. REGARDING A SECOND SCENARIO, A PNA VICTORY, GHAUS BRIEFLY COMMENTED THAT THE OPPOSITION  
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DOES NOT YET SEEM TOO WELL ORGANIZED, NOR TOO CERTAIN OF ITS POLICIES, BUT THAT IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT GENERALLY SPEAKING THE PNA SEEMED "FAVORABLY DISPOSED" TOWARD AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID THAT UNDER EITHER CIRCUMSTANCE OF A CONTINUATION OF BHUTTO IN POWER OR A TAKE-OVER BY THE PNA, THE GOA HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE

PROGRESS TOWARD PAK/AFGHAN RAPPROCHEMENT.

3. A MILITARY TAKE-OVER WAS GHAS' THIRD SCENARIO, AND HE COMMENTED THAT "WE HAVE SEEN THE EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY RULE IN PAKISTAN" AND "SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE BAD NEWS FOR US". IN THIS REGARD, HE ADDED THAT THE RESIDUE OF BITTERNESS CAUSED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF THE BASICALLY PUNJABI-STAFFED PAKISTAN ARMY RECENTLY IN KARACHI, AND EARLIER IN BALUCHISTAN, WOULD CERTAINLY PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR ANY MILITARY REGIME WHICH DECIDED TO SEIZE POWER.

4. IN CLOSING, GHAS WAS CRITICAL OF BHUTTO'S ANTI-U.S. TACTICS, AND EXPRESSED SOME DISBELIEF THAT THE PM ACTUALLY BELIEVED WHAT HE HAD SAID.

5. COMMENT: GHAS' REMARKS REPRESENT THE MOST SUCCINCT DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS IN PAKISTAN WHICH WE HAVE HEARD TO DATE FROM A HIGH LEVEL GOA OFFICIAL. IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR TO US FROM HIS COMMENTS THAT THE GOA IS UNSURE AND WORRIED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PAKISTAN. GHAS STATED SPECIFICALLY, AND THE WHOLE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS TENDED TO AMPLIFY THIS, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE GOA INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO ADOPT A CAREFUL, HANDS OFF POSTURE TOWARDS EVENTS IN PAKISTAN. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009